



Highlands School District

School Closure: Frequently Asked Questions

ONLINE LEARNING

- 1. When does Remote Learning begin for Highlands students?** Remote Learning begins Monday, March 30, 2020 for High School students, and on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 for Middle School, Elementary and Early Childhood Center students.
- 2. Is Remote Learning mandatory for my child/ren?** Yes
- 3. When will Remote Learning end?** Students will participate in Remote Learning throughout the school closure. Currently, all Pennsylvania schools are closed until further notice and direction from Governor Wolf.
- 4. Is the district providing a laptop or computer to families in need?** The district will not be providing devices to families (see next question.) Did you know that a smart phone, Xbox and Playstation can be used to access Google Classroom?
[Read more about it here.](#)
- 5. I don't have internet access or a laptop or computer. How can my child/ren participate in online learning?** Alternative assignments will be provided in hard copy for any student who lacks accessibility or connectivity. Packets will be delivered to families on Friday, April 3, 2020. The district compiled a list of those families based on the technology access survey responses. If you did not complete the survey or were not contacted by the school to determine your

needs, please contact your child's building principal if you are in need of a work packet.

6. What online learning platforms will be used for my child? How do I access them?

Students in *grades K-6* will be utilizing the Google Classroom Suite platform. Teachers will use the following sites to develop their weekly plans, utilizing Core Program Resources first and supplementing with the additional resources when applicable: *Think Central, Holt-McDougal, Freckle, Epic, Kahn Academy, No Red Ink, Carolina Biological, Pearson Realize, Scholastic News, PBS Learning Media, Clever and Xello*. Weekly plans will be housed in each teacher's Google Classroom for students/parents to access. Students in the *Pre-K Counts program* will receive links to learning and additional resources through email from the teachers. Students in *grades 7-12* will be using the Google Classroom Suite and Edgenuity. [Access these platforms here](#). ***Your child/ren's teachers should be your first point of contact for questions or specific instructions.***

7. What are the login credentials needed to access Google Classroom and Edgenuity?

For Google Classroom and Edgenuity, students should use their school-issued email for the user name, which is their firstname.lastname@goldenrams.org. Their password is their student number (also referred to as their lunch number).

8. I don't know my child's student number. Who should I contact?

Your child's student number is also referred to as his/her lunch number. If you don't know this number, please contact your child's building via email:

Highlands High School – hhs@goldenrams.com

Highlands Middle School – hms@goldenrams.com

Highlands Elementary School – hes@goldenrams.com

Highlands Early Childhood Center – hecc@goldenrams.com

9. How will you take attendance during the school closure? How will my child check-in? [The district developed a daily attendance check in process that may be](#)

[accessed here](#). Students / parents will complete the online form daily and submit for attendance to be recorded.

10. What if we have a question about the course work and assignments? If you have specific questions about your child's lessons, you are encouraged to reach out directly to the teacher. Teachers will be available via email in the event that students or parents have questions. In addition, Nurses and School Counselors will be available during the school day via email for support. [Access the district's Staff Directory here](#).

11. How will my child be graded for the work completed during the school closure? All assignments and assessments will be graded based on the District's current grading scale.

12. Special Education: What if a child has an IEP or 504 Plan? How will accommodations be made during Remote Learning? If your child has an IEP, you are encouraged to reach out to your child's *special education teacher* directly via email or phone. If your child has a 504 Plan, you may contact your child's *school counselor* directly with any questions or concerns:

HECC & HES Counselor

Angela Boyer – aboyer@goldenrams.com

HMS Counselors

Julie Allman jallman@goldenrams.com

Chuck Rhoads crhoads@goldenrams.com

HHS Counselors

Beth Carrarini bcarrarini@goldenrams.com

Dr. Susie Gurrera sgurrera@goldenrams.com

Marilyn Skwartz mskwartz@goldenrams.com

13. I am anxious and apprehensive about my child/ren beginning Remote Learning. What can I do to help my child? We understand that this new way of learning for our students is not ideal, but it's what is needed during this challenging time. We ask that you remain patient as we implement this online learning plan. We will work with you to make the transition as smooth as possible. Remember, we are preparing, planning and implementing for something in which there is no guide book – this hasn't happened in our lifetime. The district will continue to work tirelessly in order to do what is best for our students and school community. Your child/ren's teachers should be your first point of contact regarding course work and assignments. Please reach out to them if you have any questions or concerns.

STUDENT MEALS

- 1. Will the district continue to offer student meals throughout the school closure?** Yes, Highlands School District will continue to offer Grab & Go Breakfasts and Lunches on Mondays only between 11:00am and 1:00pm. Each student may receive a week's worth of Grab & Go Breakfasts and Lunches.
- 2. Where can I pick up student meals?** Parents or students may pick up the meals at these locations: Highlands High School entrance door #23 nearest the student parking lot; Highlands Elementary School entrance door #22 nearest the cafeteria; The Hayden Center at Sheldon Park.
- 3. I don't have transportation to pick up the meals. Will you be adding additional locations or providing delivery?** The district is not providing additional locations or delivery. However, please visit the [Student Meals](#) page on our website for updated information and announcements of any local community organization effort willing to assist with food distribution.

CLOSURES & EVENTS

1. Are any of the school buildings or Administrative Center open during the school closure? All Highlands school facilities, buildings and grounds are closed to the public, with the exception of the grab and go lunch distribution from 11am-1pm on Mondays at HHS & HES. The Administrative Center Office has limited hours during the school closure. Email is the preferred communication method at this time. Please refer to the [Administrative Directory](#) or [Staff Directory](#) for a list of contacts.

2. Is there a way to contact my child's building during the school closure? Yes, please contact your child's building via phone or email (preferred method). These emails will reach the principals and secretaries of each respective building.

Highlands High School: 724-226-1000 hhs@goldenrams.com

Highlands Middle School: 724-226-0600 hms@goldenrams.com

Highlands Elementary School: 724-224-0300 hes@goldenrams.com

Highlands Early Childhood Center: 724-224-5880 hecc@goldenrams.com

3. All activities and events are canceled during the school closure. Are there plans to reschedule any district events if we return to school? At this point in time, the district is not planning to reschedule any events that were canceled.

4. What is the future of our school spring sports season? On March 30, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association board of directors held a video conference meeting, but there was no discussion yet on whether spring sports would be canceled or the basketball playoffs canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.